

From: [Chris Rowe](#)
To: [Rick Brausch](#); MMalinow@dtsc.ca.gov; [scallery](#); [Linda Adams](#); billie.greer@gov.ca.gov; [Merrilee Fellows](#); (HQ-NB000); william.backous@emcbc.doe.gov; [Stephanie Jennings](#); [Nicole Moutoux/R9/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Craig Cooper/R9/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Thomas D Gallacher](#); [Kamara Sams](#); [Nancy Long](#); [Cassandra Owens](#)
Cc: [Christina Walsh](#)
Subject: CAG Public Records Act
Date: 06/27/2010 02:11 AM

Dear Rick,

I have just spent hours reading the Public Records request documents that Christina Walsh has posted on the CAG and other issues.

Since you just officially took over the site in August, I want to put a few things into perspective.

Two years ago I was actually at ACME - as were many in the community. And we all were thrilled that the museum was opening. I am sure that there are many photos to document that event.

I want to make it clear that there can be a difference of opinion with someone, and that difference should not lead to one group shutting another down. But that is what I have seen consistently in these emails. There were literally "Actions taken" that were known in advance to:

1) block my attempts to bring the EPA TASC to the West Hills community. But while I asked for that as a resident of West Hills, it was also voted upon by SSMAC and sent to the WHNC where the request was approved.

2) There was also a deliberate action taken to block my efforts to form a CAG or to request formally the increase of community participation at the Workgroup. This was evident in an email from Dan to you.

I was asked to fill a vacancy on the WHNC in July 2008 because of my involvement in Santa Susana and my presentation on Dayton Canyon in particular. I was appointed to that position in September 2008.

I was asked by Dr. Wiseman to take over SSMAC at that time. I never wanted that role because I was more familiar at the time with the site and the complex relationships in the community. I was happy to do research, attend meetings, and to invite the agencies and the RPs to attend our SSMAC and WHNC meetings. I wanted us all to be educated by the appropriate agencies or the RPs.

In the spring of 2009, I was the elected Vice Chair of SSMAC and the Acting Chair while Dr. Wiseman had health issues that prevented him from participating at times. It was at one of the meetings that I chaired that this "action" to make me look bad occurred - I feel vindicated by the email that Christina got in her record's request.

After that meeting, the WHNC and SSMAC took efforts to be more prepared for disruptive behavior by creating the position of Sergeant at Arms for SSMAC.

In August 2009, I got some emails from some SSMAC committee members that attacked me. I decided to step away from my involvement with SSMAC. I was no longer a voting member.

In the meantime, you came on Board, and I invited you and the RPs to the WHNC for the meeting on the Consent Order. I laid out my plans for that meeting. However, Dr. Wiseman as the Chair of SSMAC changed the format. As the Chair - that was his right.

In October 2009, I decided to go to SSMAC as an observer. There were a couple of people absent, and I found myself doing introductions and answering the agenda item questions. There were also SSMAC committee nominations for Chair, etc. I accepted the nomination for Chair, but I didn't really want it.

The following month (November 2009), many of you were at the meeting in the dining room at Fairwinds. An election took place, and Alec was elected. I do not want to go into this process, but the position of Chair is actually an appointment. The Executive Board chose to appoint Alec Uzemeck as Chair on the recommendation of Dr. Wiseman.

In the numerous emails that you have, Alec does indicated that he is now the new SSMAC Chair, and that he has changed the committee name to the Environment Committee.

I did not attend that committee until last month (May 2010) when Susan and Tom Seckington were there. While I do have a few friends on that committee, the reality is that three or more of the main people who were involved with SSMAC a year ago are no longer attend SSMAC.

SSMAC arose from the Dayton Canyon Committee. That committee consisted of **WHNC Board members Dr. Wiseman and Barry Seybert. Community members** included Bonnie Klea, Marge Brown and her friend Holly (not Holly Huff). It included Christina Walsh, Bill Bowling, Liz Crawford, John Luker, and Dave Carey. I did not join that group until about 2 years ago - even though I was involved with the SSFL. There were just too many issues and too many meetings.

I want to clarify this issue - the WHNC Board members did not have any idea that this CAG action had anything to do with a petition by Christina Walsh. I saw emails by Dan Hirsch and Alec Uzemeck stating that it did.

The action of the WHNC was to not create its own CAG, and not to have formal representation of the WHNC on one if one was formed.

I feel that the discussion on this issue was rushed.

At that meeting, I believe that the CAG was opposed by Alec Uzemeck, John Luker, and Holly Huff.

I also believe that it was the intent of Dr. Wiseman to create a CAG petition that night. I think that is reflected in the emails from Susan.

I also saw in the emails on the CAG that what I said to the Board was accurate. What I said was that I had spoken to Susan Callery, and that she had said that there may be as many as two more petitions. I stated that if they did get three petitions, they would have to talk to Secretary Adams.

Since I had just talked to Barry Seybert of my Board about it about two hours earlier

- and he stated that he had been talking to Dan about creating a CAG - that is also supported in the record that you have. It speaks about Dan and John creating a CAG
- I believe Barry supported that CAG.

In some of the emails Christina states that I said NASA would not support a CAG. I believe that was a statement made by a community member. I think I know who - but I will not name that person since I cannot prove it. I know that I did not say it because I had emails from Merrilee telling me that she did not have the time to discuss it because of two days of site tours.

Unfortunately, the WHNC does not film or record its meetings. I wish that they did. There are legal obligations if the Council films regarding having copies available to the public, etc.

Minutes are very general - I take as detailed of minutes as I can, but it is next to impossible to record the conversation of a 25 member board with cross chatter.

Please read the minutes that were taken regarding the CAG at the December 2009 WHNC meeting:

http://www.westhillsnc.org/uploads/2009_Dec_2_Minutes.pdf

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06-0092 – Santa Susana Mountain Area Committee (SSMAC)

Dr. Daniel Wiseman advised that he is resigning as chair of this committee. Dr. Wiseman stated

that the amount of work required is too much for one person. Dr. Wiseman reported that in the latest draft agreement between DTSC and the three SSFL owners/operators (Boeing, DOE & NASA) DTSC is requiring strict adherence to SB990. None of the owners/operators have signed the document.

Dr. Wiseman moved that the draft of the September 29, 2009 Special Meeting be accepted and posted to the SSMAC page of the WHNC website. Motion carried

Dr. Wiseman advised that the committee wished to have the board entertain a motion on whether

[the WHNC and its SSMAC create or participate in a Community Action Group](#). It is really multiple motions;

1 - [Should we join a community action group?](#);

2 - [Should we form a Community Action group within the WHNC?](#) ; or

3 – [Should we reject any formal relationship?](#)

Board member Mr. Alec Uzemeck gave an overview of the recommendations and his position.

Board member Ms. Joanne Yvanek-Garb stated that she does not know where these recommendations are coming from as they were not discussed at the last SSMAC meeting and she questioned whether we could become involved in a state and/or federal matter.

Stakeholder Ms. Bonnie Klea, advised that she became an advocate in 1995 and she is not in favor of creating a Community Action Group.

Stakeholder Mr. John Luker advised that the DTSC resources are strained. He stated that the CAG was designed for people who did not know how to get in touch with their elected officials.

It is really for those not informed or educated on the problem, which is definitely not the case.

Board member Mr. Ed Young, stated that we should check with the City Attorney and get a legal

opinion before taking any action.

Board member, Ms. Chris Rowe, advised that she spoke to Susan Callery who advised that there

is the potential for additional CAG applications and they may have to go to Secretary Linda Adams.

Ms. Holly Huff *(stakeholder) advised the board that she decided not to join any CAG in Ventura County and

came to the meeting tonight to encourage us to do the same.

Dr. Wiseman moved that we join and/or form a Community Action Group. Motion failed.

Dr. Wiseman advised that the committee has provided recommendations for election of officers

for the SSMAC. This matter was tabled."

***inserted stakeholder**

As I have stated previously, I made a Motion to divide the vote - to take the vote as separate items -

- 1) Whether to form a CAG;
- 2) Whether to participate in a CAG. My Motion was denied.

Finally, there is some confusion about who is on the WHNC Board. The current list of Board members is here:

http://www.westhillsnc.org/BOARD_OF_DIRECTORS.html

There are references in emails to Bonnie Klea and Bob Brostoff being members of the WHNC prior to our elections. Our elections were in March 2010, they were certified by the City Clerk in April, and we were seated in May 2010.

Committee assignments went away with the changing of the Board. Bonnie Klea and Bob Brostoff are now WHNC Board Members.

To the best of my understanding, these are the active participants of the Environment Committee:

WHNC Board Members:

Alec Uzemeck, Bob Brostoff, Jacquie Young, Wally Perfect, Barry Seybert, and Bonnie Klea.

Stakeholders: John Luker, Marge Brown, and Adam Salkin.

I am now the Chair of the WHNC Public Health Committee. I have some overlapping members.

In the end, I want to make it clear that there was no deliberate action of the WHNC to oppose the existing CAG petition.

The actions taken by Alec Uzemeck - he states that he did this as an "individual". His letter was signed with his Encino address.

I am sure that it is confusing to everyone when we wear two hats. **When we speak or act, we act only as individuals** with the exception of when we are at a formal Board meeting, or at a meeting where we can speak to a vote taken by our Board.

In the end, I do continue to support the DTSC "Roundtable". However, I also recognize the frustration of Christina Walsh and others who believe that they did submit a legitimate CAG petition.

The problem is - Christina states that she wants this CAG in addition to the existing Workgroup. I *personally* would like to see the Workgroup completely revamped so that there are no community members on the Workgroup. I would like it to be agency leaders and the RP's on those planning calls and at the front of the meetings only.

In the Workgroup Charter, it states that all questions must be submitted in advance. I believe that any Power Points, such as the ones that Dan puts on, need to be shown to the agency leaders prior to the Workgroup meetings so that the agency leaders and the RPs can respond appropriately.

It also states in the Workgroup Charter that all agenda items must be approved by Dan. I think by now it is clear, that the community is greatly divided, and that many do not see Dan as their representative.

I am very saddened that the elected officials have chosen to support the current members of the Workgroup over many of their other constituents.

I truly regret the division within this community.

Please let me know if I can clarify any of my actions or those of the WHNC that I am privy to - futher.

Sincerely,

Chris Rowe

32 year West Hills Resident